

IT IS TIME FOR THE IRS TO GO

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, an investigation revealed that 16,000 IRS employees illegally used their computers. The report states IRS agents spent 50 percent of their time at work on personal business. If that is not enough to service your revenue, IRS agents illegally used their computers for shopping, stock trading, gambling and pornography. Unbelievable.

Think about it. While 60 percent of taxpayer calls to the IRS go unanswered, the IRS agents were watching Marilyn Chambers do the Rotary International. Beam me up here. It is time to pass a flat 15 percent sales tax and abolish this gambling, porno-watching IRS completely.

I yield back the internal rectal service of the United States of America.

THE REAL ISSUE AT HAND IS ENERGY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today is a very important day. The one-party government in the United States is done. We had a vote of confidence in the other body today or yesterday and we are now back to two party government, and maybe, just maybe, we can get back to the issues the people really care about.

We are hanging around here today because we cannot seem to get the President's tax bill through. They cannot figure out how to give it all to the rich.

At the same time, we are failing to deal with energy. Now, the energy prices in my district, in Seattle, are facing a potential 250 percent increase from the Bonneville Power Administration. The estimates are that 102,000 jobs are at risk and that a whole quarter of a million jobs in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana are at risk because of the runaway gouging costs of energy in the northwest.

Seattle City Light has already raised it 30 percent and it is coming up another 30 percent. When will we get down to the issues that matters?

SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. McNULTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, I again want to salute our veterans. I was in Berlin in the spring of 1990 when the people were out there with their hammers and chisels taking down the Ber-

lin Wall piece by piece, and then I listened to the East Berliners thank our American soldiers for their vigilance through the period of the Cold War.

The following year in September of 1991, I was in Armenia when people went out in overwhelming numbers to vote for their independence from the former Soviet Union. Then I was with them the next day in the streets of Yerevan and they danced and shouted and sang, "Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan," long live free and independent Armenia; and then pointing to the United States of America as their example of what they wanted to be as a democracy.

So it is important for all of us to know that we owe our freedom here in the United States to our American soldiers but also hundreds of millions of people all around the world today are enjoying the blessings of freedom because of the sacrifices of American soldiers. We salute them all.

CONSUMERS NEED HELP WITH ENERGY COSTS AND THEY NEED IT NOW

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, each and every day all across America families are paying higher energy prices. In my State of Connecticut, a gallon of gas now goes for \$1.82. In Illinois, the price has gone as high as \$2.39.

California citizens are being held hostage by out-of-state generators who have held down the production of energy in order to increase their own profits. In fact, if the price of milk had increased at the same rate as California's energy prices a gallon would cost \$190. No family would accept such price gouging. Consumers need help with energy costs and they need it now.

What does the President and the Republican leadership do today in the midst of this crisis? They are locked behind closed doors deciding how much of a tax cut to give to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans, while working- and middle-class families spend more of their hard-earned dollars on unfair gas and electricity prices.

Republicans remain focused on passing a tax cut that does little for these families but lines the pocket of people making more than \$300,000 a year.

The Vice President says the energy crisis is only an issue of supply and demand. His friends in the energy issue have the supply, and they are demanding an arm, a leg and family savings for it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for special order speeches without prejudice to the possible resumption of legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IT IS ALL ABOUT ENERGY, ENERGY, ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is Memorial Day weekend, and while gasoline prices in my district are among the Nation's highest, at well over \$2.00 a gallon, in fact it was about \$2.22 for regular, it still does not appear that President Bush and Vice President CHENEY have any plans to bring relief to my constituents at the gas pump.

While big oil is getting bigger, consumers in my district and across the country are getting gouged, and the President's energy plan does nothing to address that. Instead, the administration has proposed relief for its oil industry friends.

Big oil hit the jackpot last year, thanks to consumers in Chicago and across the country that paved the way for big oil's record profits. The top oil company profits last year went up over 100 percent on the average from the previous year, combining for almost \$50 billion in profits. Now Exxon Mobile is number one on the Fortune 500 list.

None of us should be surprised at the give-aways big oil is reaping from this administration and the Republicans. President Bush received \$2 million in contributions for his campaign, and the Republican Party received over \$25 million from big oil, with Enron and Exxon Mobile giving the most. It looks like those companies made the right bet.

Mr. President, I am again calling on you to persuade, in fact to jawbone, your friends in the industry to bring these prices down now. I hope you will think about that while you are relaxing at Camp David and my constituents are cancelling their family's summer vacations.

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for yielding.

It turns out that we are talking about a very similar sort of thing.

I wanted to point out to people today that the President's energy plan utterly ignores a key fact; that if we are